

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Vermont Mental Health Performance Indicator Project  
Advisory Group and Interested Parties

FROM: John Pandiani  
Janet Bramley

DATE: March 3, 2000

RE: Men and Women in Jail: Parents of Young Children

Last week we reported that more than one out of every seven children of men who were under 26 years when the child was born had been incarcerated before the child reached 5 years of age. The mother of one out of every twenty-five children of women who were under 26 years of age when the child was born had been incarcerated in Vermont before the child reached 5 years of age. This week's PIP continues that line of inquiry by reporting on the proportion and the number of incarcerated adults who are parents of young children.

As you will see from the attached page, about one-third of the incarcerated men and about two-thirds of the incarcerated women who were less than 36 years of age at the time of the child's birth had children under seven years of age. This amounts to 252 incarcerated women and more than one thousand incarcerated men who have young children.

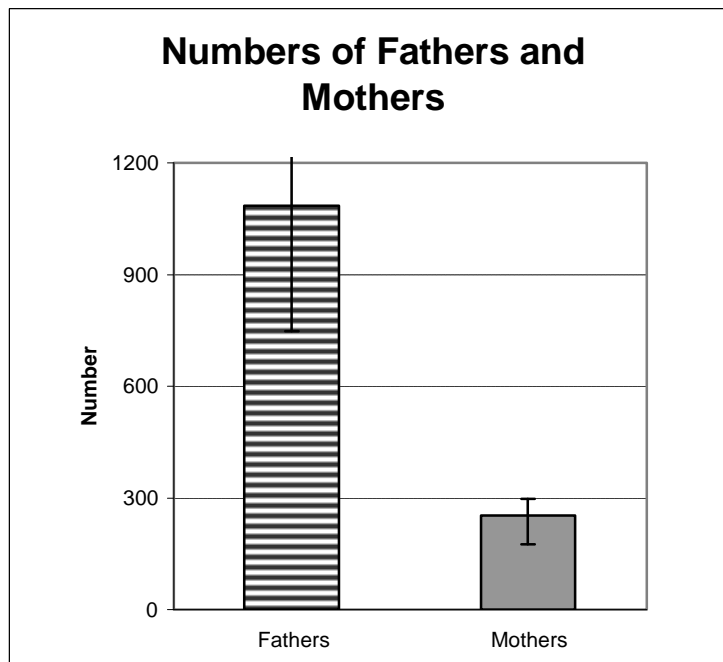
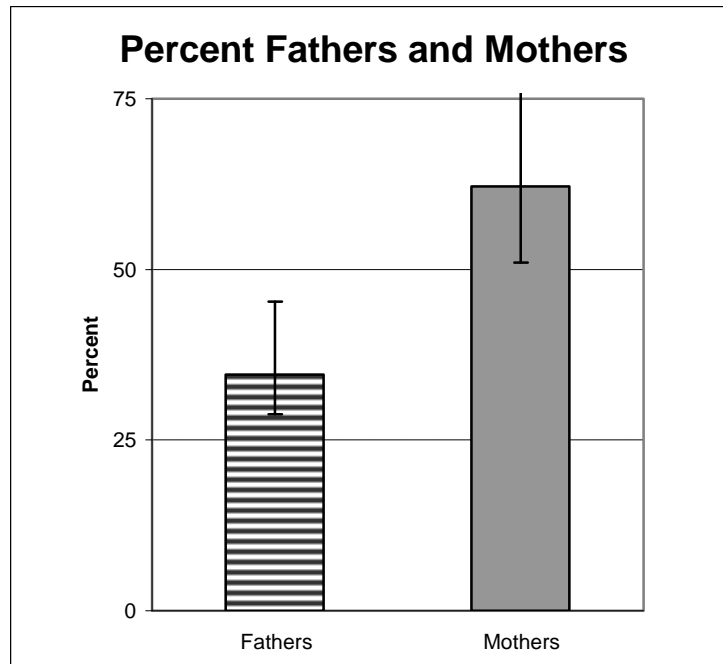
Special programs to address the needs of incarcerated parents and their families have been recommended by some experts in the field, and model programs have been designed and implemented in some areas (Seymour and Hairston, 1998). These findings indicated a large number of potential recipients of such services in Vermont.

We look forward to your comments and suggestions to 802-241-2638 or [jpandiani@ddmhs.state.vt.us](mailto:jpandiani@ddmhs.state.vt.us).

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Seymour, C.B., and Hairston, C.F. (Eds.): (1998) Children with parents in prison. Special Issue of *Child Welfare*, 77:5, September October.

## Men and Women in Jail: Parents of Children under the Age of Seven



\*Includes all children born FY 1991-1998 whose parent was under 36 years at the time of bi